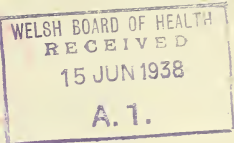


Whitwell



BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Committee of the Borough of Cowbridge.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1937 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1650 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health:-

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)...	...	84
Estimated Population (Mid 1937) ...	...	1002
Number of inhabited houses		
according to the Rate Book		285
Sum represented by a penny Rate		£21.6.0
Rateable Value of District		£5122.

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small Market Town surrounded by extensive agricultural area forming the Vale of Glamorgan. There are no large industries in the District and most of the men in constant employment obtain work outside the District. From figures available the average number of men whose names were on the Unemployment Register during the year was 7. This is a decrease on the number recorded for the year 1936 and is due to employment available at the New Air Base in the neighbouring district of St Athan.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar-General relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough after correction for inward and outward transfers:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Birth Rate per</u> <u>1,000</u>
Live Births (Legitimate) ..13	8	5		12.9
Live Births (Illegitimate) -	-	-		
Stillbirths 1	1	-		
Deaths (all ages) 19	9	10		<u>Death Rate per 1000</u> 18.9

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes.	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:-

Number of deaths 1	Infantile Mortality Rate..77.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.



REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK DURING THE YEAR 1900

The following is a summary of the work done during the year 1900, and of the progress made in the various branches of the study.

1. General Principles

The first part of the work has been devoted to a study of the general principles of the subject, and to a consideration of the various methods which have been employed in the investigation of the same.

2. Experimental Work

The second part of the work has been devoted to a study of the experimental work which has been done during the year 1900, and to a consideration of the results which have been obtained.

The following table gives a summary of the results which have been obtained in the various branches of the study during the year 1900.

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The total number of deaths of residents of the Borough during the year was 19 and the following table shews the various causes of death:-

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease	4	1	5
Cancer... ..	-	4	4
Bronchitis	1	-	2
Circulatory disease	-	1	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Congenital debility etc.	1	-	1
Violence	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Senility	1	1	2
Other defined disease	-	1	1
Totals	9	10	19

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health (part time):-

Dr.D.J.Evans, M.R.C.S., (Eng)., L.R.C.P. (London) M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector:-

E.I.Davies, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute & Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board: Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector terminated his appointment in May of the year under review and C. Morgan was appointed to fill the vacancy commencing duties on the 17th May. The latter holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board. The Sanitary Inspector holds the combined appointments of Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor, Shops Inspector, Rate Collector and Borough Agent.

Health Visitor (Part time):-

Miss E.Rhymer S.R.N., C.M.B., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitor.

Contributions are made by the Ministry of Health towards the salaries of the three Officers.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:-

No laboratory facilities are available within the district but arrangements are made for the examination of specimens at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Cases: The local authority contributes towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital and is entitled to use, when necessary, the Fever ambulance attached to the Hospital.

For Non-infectious and accident Cases: No Ambulance is available within the district for these cases and if required

it is necessary to obtain the services of the St John's Ambulance, Cardiff or hire a private car.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This service has now been discontinued.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no Clinics or Treatment Centres established under the local authority. Residents desiring to do so can visit the Child Welfare Centres, Tuberculosis and Venereal Clinics either at Pontypridd or Bridgend.

HOSPITALS.

FEVER: There is no Fever Hospital within the District. The local authority contributes towards the upkeep of the Bridgend Fever Hospital and is entitled, when the occasion arises to send infectious cases there.

SMALLPOX: The Smallpox Hospital is also at Bridgend and the local authority contributes towards the upkeep and maintenance

GENERAL HOSPITAL. There is no General Hospital within the Borough. Whenever residents require treatment they are generally admitted to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary or the Bridgend and District Hospital. Orthopaedic cases are admitted to the Crossways Orthopaedic (connected with the Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital, Cardiff) which is situated close to the Borough.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL The King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association has established a Clinic at Bridgend where suspected cases can be examined. When necessary the persons examined are recommended treatment at one of the Sanatoria under the control of the Association.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS. There are no Maternity Hospitals within the Borough, but arrangements are made, if necessary, for expectant mothers to be admitted to the Cardiff or Bridgend Infirmaries.

HEALTH VISITING

The following is the Health Visitor's Report for the year under review:-

Number of children on the Register ...	43
Number of children under 1 year ...	10
Number of children between 1 & 3 years ...	19
Number of children between 3 & 5 years ...	14

Total number of visits made during the year	351
Number of children left the District ...	5

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. A constant water supply is laid on to the Borough from the water Mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Periodical samples of the water are taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological analyses. The reports of the analyst have been satisfactory. There are three dwelling houses within the District, which are not connected to the water mains. The inhabitants of two of these houses obtain their supply from



rain water storage tanks and in the case of the other the supply is obtained from a well. Samples have been taken from these supplies and the results shewn to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The drainage system of the Borough is very unsatisfactory and with the exception of the modern houses which are drained into cesspools, and a section of the older houses which connect up with a drain which discharges crude sewage into the River Thaw, we are dependent on the antiquated Pail and Privy-midden systems.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The course of the River Thaw flows through the district and enters the sea at Aberthaw an approximate distance of six miles from Cowbridge. As I have stated in my comments under the heading of Drainage and Sewerage, all surface water from the roads, slop water from the houses and even crude sewage discharge into the River.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year under review 3 privy middens were substituted by pail systems and the following table shows the present closet accommodation of the Borough:-

Water Closets connected to cesspools...	...	112
Closets connected to the Town Drains ..	...	46
Closets emptying direct into the River. ...	...	5
Pail Closets	...	18
Middens	...	172

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Local Authority contract with a local tradesman for the removal of house refuse. The refuse is collected twice weekly and disposed of at a disused quarry about three miles outside the district.

The use of a Sanitary Cart, owned by the local authority, is available for the use of residents of the Town for the purpose of removing the contents of cesspools and disposing of it by emptying over agricultural land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspection of the area is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

SHOPS. The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to see that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

As the Borough is situated in the centre of an agricultural area where there are no large factories the question of smoke nuisances do not arise.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Local Authority has control over one swimming Pool which is constructed in the bed of the River Thaw. The flow of water through the pool is continuous and every year it is dried and cleaned out. During the summer months a Caretaker is in attendance at the pool.



SCHOOLS.

There are two Schools within the Borough. The Cowbridge Grammar School is situate in the centre of the Town. A constant supply of water is laid on and during the year under review the outside arrangement of pail closets was converted into modern water closets emptying into the River.

The Cowbridge Council School is situated on Broadway and is served with a constant supply of water. The Sanitary arrangements consist of a system of pail closets, separate for sexes and two urinals. Provision is made for the regular removal of the pail contents. No case of infectious disease was reported from either School during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	102
--	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	135
--	-----

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	Nil.
--	------

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
--	------

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	12.
--	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	9
---	---

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ..	15
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	Nil
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners	Nil
--------------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ..	Nil
---	-----

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(b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... .. 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners... .. 9
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c). Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Action Demolition Orders were made pending

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... .. pending

(d). Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... .. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit.. Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936- Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a) -(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 24

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) -(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

(d)- Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

A scheme for the provision of 12 houses which the Local Authority prepared under the Housing Act 1930, was commenced in August during the year under review. The houses are to accommodate persons from 12 houses scheduled for demolition and included in these houses are 3 dwellings which were found, as a result of the overcrowding survey, to be overcrowded.

The new houses, which are built by contract, are of the non-parlour type and are built in three blocks of four houses. One house in each block is provided with four bedrooms and the standard of accommodation is five persons for the three-bedroomed houses and seven for the houses with four bedrooms

The houses were nearly completed by the end of the year but not occupied.



PROVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES. There are three registered purveyors of milk residing within the area. Frequent inspections were made to the dairies which were always found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory manner. There are no producers of milk in the area.

Seven registered milk purveyors residing outside the Borough also retail milk within the district. Most of the milk retailed within the district is by producers, and since adequate control and supervision is maintained by the appropriate officers in whose district the milk is produced it was unnecessary to submit samples for bacteriological examination under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

(b). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There is one licenced and one registered slaughter-house situated in the district. The registered slaughter-house was not used during the year under review. Frequent visits were made to the licenced slaughter-house to see that the Acts, Regulations and Bye-laws applicable to slaughter-houses are complied with. During the year 43 beats, 25 calves, 336 sheep and 63 pigs were slaughtered within the district. All the carcasses and organs were inspected. A total of 221 lbs of meat and offal was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as unfit for consumption.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered etc., during the year under review:-

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	41	1	25	336	63
Number inspected	41	1	25	336	63
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	32	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis.	12.5	-	-	9.5	-
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	4.9	100	-	-	3.2

There are four retail butcher shops within the Borough; one storage room used by an itinerant vendor was discontinued during the year under review. All the premises were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory manner.

(c). ADULTERATION: The administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is not carried out by the local authority but by Superintendent W.C. May and his Officers. I am indebted to Superintendent May for supplying me with the following schedule showing the number of samples taken in the Borough and submitted for analysis during the year 1937:-

New Milk...	...	...	8
Butter	...	...	2
Cheese	...	...	1
Vinegar	...	...	1

All the samples were certified by the analyst to be genuine.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified etc., during the year under review:-

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox...	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever...	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever...	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Other diseases generally notifiable	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS:-

Age Periods	Respiratory		New Cases Non-Respiratory		Deaths Respiratory		Deaths Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

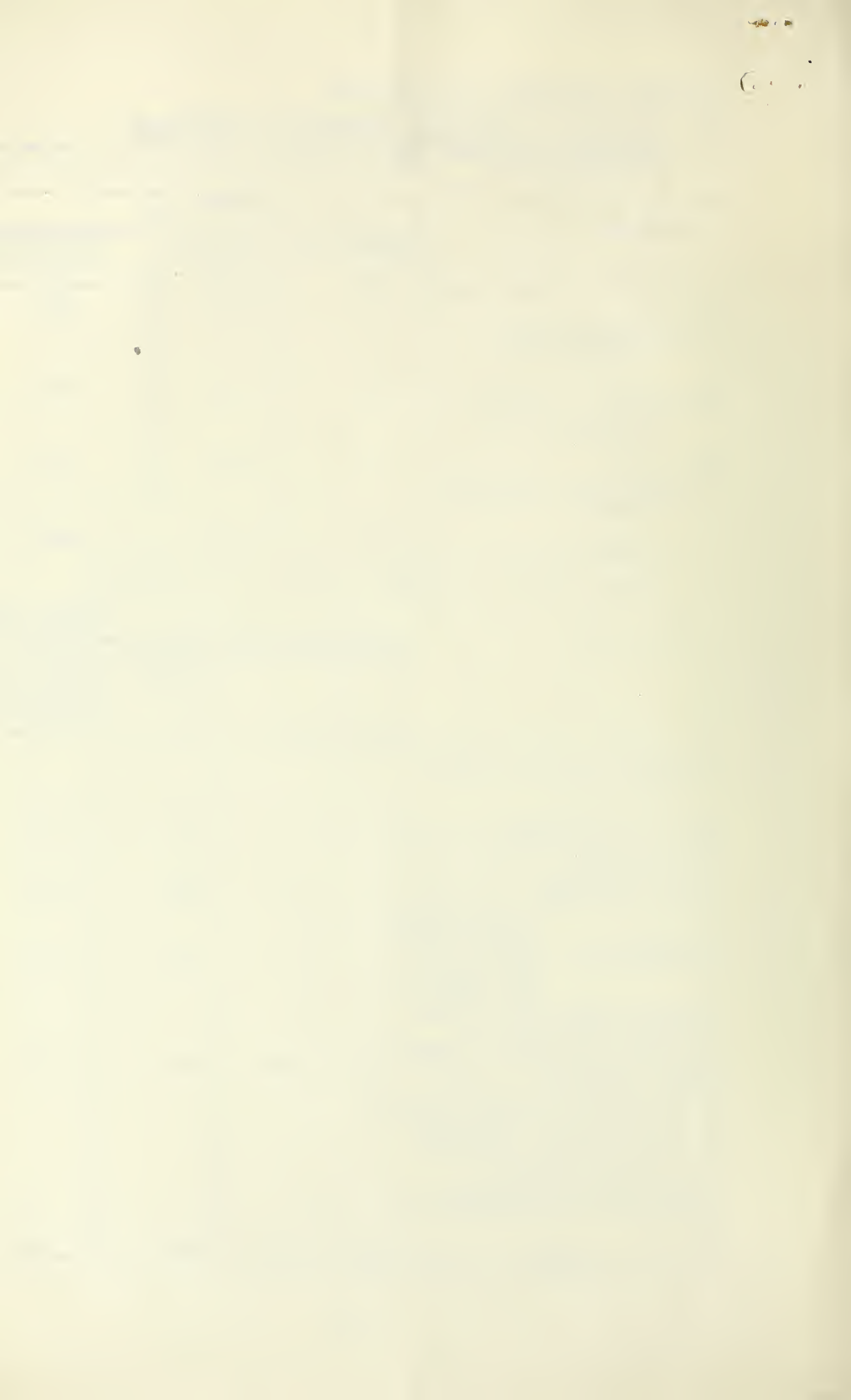
1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories... .. (including Factory Laundries)	9	Nil	Nil
Workshops... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	20	Nil	Nil
Workplaces.. ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	7	Nil	Nil
Total	36	Nil	Nil

2.- DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	Nil	Nil
Want of ventilation	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Want of drainage of floors.	1	1	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances.	1	1	Nil	Nil
)insufficient	-	-	-	-
Sanitary)unsuitable or				
Accommodation)defective	1	1	Nil	Nil
)Not separate				
)for sexes	-	-	-	-
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:-				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouses (s.101).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences.. ...				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power) Order 1921				
Total	4.	4	Nil	Nil



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Reviewing the year under consideration I am pleased to be able to report that the general health of the inhabitants of the Borough was satisfactory. The death-rate for the year, however, reached a very high mark at 18.9 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. This rate is 6.5 higher than the general death-rate for England and Wales.

With reference to the sanitary circumstances of the Borough I must again emphasize the urgent necessity of providing a proper system of drains and sewers for the district. Sixteen houses were built or in course of construction during the year the drains of which connect to cesspools. This method is certainly an improvement on the general method of privy middens in the district, but falls far short of the ideal method of a proper system of sewers whereby effete matter is immediately removed from the precincts of the houses.

I would gladly welcome any move to bring about the extension of the boundaries of the Borough whereby increased financial facilities may be available for the provision of a sewerage scheme.

DAVID J. EVANS, M.C.H.

